

## Message Text

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SUBJECT: FIFTH PLENUM OF ROMANIA-U.S. ECONOMIC COUNCIL

1. THE FIFTH PLENUM OF THE ROMANIAN-U.S. ECONOMIC COUNCIL  
WAS HELD IN SINAIA, ROMANIA JUNE 26-27, 1978. MILTON F.  
ROSENTHAL, CHAIRMAN OF ENGELHARD MINERALS AND CHEMICALS  
CORPORATION AND CHAIRMAN OF THE AMERICAN DELEGATION  
NOTED IN HIS OPENING REMARKS THAT "THERE HAVE BEEN A  
NUMBER OF IMPORTANT DEVELOPMENTS RECENTLY IN U.S.-ROMANIAN  
RELATIONS, BY FAR THE MOST IMPORTANT OF THESE WAS PRESIDENT  
CEAUSESCU'S RECENT VISIT IN THE UNITED STATES THIS PAST  
APRIL"". HE OUTLINED THE PROSPECTS FOR EXPANDED COMMERCIAL  
COOPERATION BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES POINTING OUT  
PARTICULARLY THE LARGER NUMBER OF FIRMS INVOLVED IN  
BILATERAL TRADE THIS YEAR THAN EVER BEFORE. HE PREDICTED  
THAT BILATERAL TRADE IN 1978 WOULD EXCEED \$550 MILLION  
UP FROM \$493 MILLION IN 1977. IN RESPONSE TO WORLD  
ECONOMIC PROBLEMS, ROSENTHAL SAID "IT IS UP TO US AS  
BUSINESSMEN TO PRESS FOR FREE TRADE TO STIMULATE WORLDWIDE  
ECONOMIC RECOVERY".  
AMBASSADOR O. RUDOLPH AGGREY THEN PRESENTED TO THE COUNCIL  
A MESSAGE FROM PRESIDENT CARTER IN WHICH THE PRESIDENT NOTED  
"THE EXPANSION OF MUTUALLY BENEFICIAL TRADE RELATIONS BETWEEN  
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OUR TWO COUNTRIES IN RECENT YEARS HAS BEEN AN IMPORTANT  
STIMULANT IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF STRONGER TIES IN MANY  
OTHER FIELDS". HE CALLED PRESIDENT CEAUSESCU'S RECENT  
VISIT "IN ITSELF SYMBOLIC OF THE EXCELLENT RELATIONSHIP  
BETWEEN THE U.S. AND ROMANIA" AND EXPRESSED CONFIDENCE  
"THAT THIS YEAR'S MEETING OF THE COUNCIL WOULD BE PRODUCTIVE  
AND SUCCESSFUL". CORNEL BURTICA, DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER OF

FOREIGN TRADE AND INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC COOPERATION AND  
VASILE VOLOSENIUC, PRESIDENT OF THE ROMANIAN BANK FOR  
FOREIGN TRADE AND CHAIRMAN OF THE ROMANIAN DELEGATION  
MADE PRESENTATIONS.

2. ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF STATE FOR EUROPEAN AFFAIRS GEORGE VEST ALSO ADDRESSED THE COUNCIL. HE EXPRESSED THE HOPE THAT OUR COMMERCIAL RELATIONS WILL CONTINUE TO EXPAND "TAKING ADVANTAGE OF THE TRUE EXCELLENT ATMOSPHERE CREATED BY PRESIDENT CEASESCU'S VISIT TO THE UNITED STATES AND TO CONTINUE THE POLITICAL DIALOGUE WHICH WE HAVE BEEN CARRYING ON SO FRUITFULLY THROUGHOUT THESE YEARS". HE CALLED FOR "CONTINUATION AND INCREASED SOPHISTICATION OF THE ALREADY WELL-DEVELOPED RELATIONS BETWEEN OUR TWO COUNTRIES AS EVIDENCED MOST IMPORTANTLY BY THE RECENT STATE VISIT". IN REFERENCE TO THE NEW INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC ORDER, MR. VEST SAID "WE DO SHARE A FORWARD-LOOKING, OPTIMISTIC PROSPECT WHICH ENCOURAGES FREER TRADE AND MORE RATIONAL INTERNATIONAL SYSTEMS". HE MENTIONED PRESIDENT CARTER'S RECOMMENDATION THAT MOST FAVORED NATION STATUS BE CONTINUED FOR ROMANIA AND SAID THAT THE ADMINISTRATION IS OPTIMISTIC THAT THE CONGRESS WILL SUPPORT THIS RECOMMENDATION. HE EXPLAINED THAT EXPORT CONTROLS, WHICH ARE BASED ON THE NATIONAL SECURITY INTERESTS OF THE UNITED STATES MAY CHANGE TO REFLECT THE DYNAMIC NATURE OF TECHNOLOGICAL DEVELOPMENTS. HE NOTED THAT A REVIEW OF CURRENT EXPORT CONTROLS IS UNDERWAY.

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3. A. JOINT DECLARATION ISSUED AT THE END OF THE PLENUM NOTED THE SUPPORT FOR THE ACTIVITIES OF THE COUNCIL EXPRESSED BY PRESIDENTS CARTER AND CEASESCU DURING THE STATE VISIT EARLIER THIS YEAR AND RESTATED THE RESOLVE OF THE COUNCIL TO CONTINUE ENCOURAGING THE DEVELOPMENT OF BILATERAL ECONOMIC COOPERATION THROUGH ALL POSSIBLE MEANS. THE COUNCIL ALSO RESOLVED TO SEND A TELEGRAM TO PRESIDENTS CARTER AND CEASESCU URGING CONTINUED COMMERCIAL COOPERATION INCLUDING LONG-TERM EXTENSION OF MFN.

4. AMONG THE OTHER PARTICIPANTS WERE UNITED STATES AMBASSADOR O. RUDOLPH AGGREY AND REPRESENTATIVES OF OVER FORTY AMERICAN FIRMS AS WELL AS THE MAJOR ROMANIAN MINISTRIES AND ENTERPRISES WHICH ARE ENGAGED IN TRADE WITH THE UNITED STATES. ALSO PRESENT WERE HIGH RANKING ROMANIAN OFFICIALS. ASSISTANT SECRETARY VEST, AMBASSADOR AGGREY AND THE AMERICAN PARTICIPANTS WERE RECEIVED BY PRESIDENT CEASESCU FOR A ONE-HOUR MEETING DURING WHICH THEY DISCUSSED BILATERAL TRADE. THERE WAS AGREEMENT THAT THE COUNCIL'S STATED GOAL OF TWO-WAY TRADE OF \$1 BILLION IN 1980 IS ACHIEVABLE. SCINTEIA DESCRIBES THE MEETING AS HAVING TAKEN PLACE IN A "WARMLY CORDIAL ATMOSPHERE".  
GARNETT

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